

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the acceptability of the drawings submitted with the application, and for confirming the Examiner's consideration of the materials submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 24, 2006. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority, and for confirming receipt of all of the certified copies of the priority documents.

While reviewing the application, Applicants noted a couple of minor typographic errors in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants herewith correct page 14 of the specification to denote the memory controller as being element 25, and the buffer memory as being element 26.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-23 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,793,724 to ICHIKAWA et al.

According to a first feature of the presently claimed invention, discussed at, for example, page 7 and 13 of Applicants' specification, a stable payback performance is assured even when the playback signal quality deteriorates due to, for example, a recording medium defect, such as may occur after repeated recording to the recording medium or from a scratch to the recording medium.

As discussed at, for example, page 17 of Applicants' specification, block address information is pre-recorded in the form of a wobble and/or other known change in the

grove shape (such as, for example, a prepit) in the recording medium (recording disc), while the block address information of the recorded data is separately disposed from the recorded data. As specified in independent claims 1 and 7, the block address information is used to predict the recording position of each frame, to determine the memory address for storing data acquired based on the predicted recording position, and to store the acquired data. Applicants submit that at least this is lacking from ICHIKAWA et al.

Specifically, Applicants submit that ICHIKAWA et al. teaches that an error correct result is read synchronously with the address data in order to easily detect the position of the error in the disc (see, for example, column 4, lines 20-36). Applicants submit that this differs from the presently claimed invention in several respects. As noted above, the object of the present invention is to ensure stability in acquiring address information of the recorded data. On the other hand, the object of ICHIKAWA et al. is to easily detect an error position in a disc. Thus, the object of ICHIKAWA et al, and the present invention differ.

Secondly, in the instant invention, block address information of the recorded data is acquired from a second playback signal based on pre-recorded block address information that is disposed separately from the data. ICHIKAWA et al. fails to disclose or even suggest acquiring block address information of the recorded data separately from the data.

Further, in the presently claimed invention, the block address information is used to predict the recording position of each frame, to determine the memory address for

storing the data acquired based upon the predicted recording position, and to store the acquired data. ICHIKAWA et al. fails to disclose or suggest this.

By the current amendment, Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 7 to clarify the above-discussed feature. In view of the above, Applicants submit that ICHIKAWA et al. fail to disclose (or even suggest) each and every feature of Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 1 and 7, along with their respective dependent claims 2-6 and 8-10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection that was set forth against these claims.

According to another feature of the present invention, discussed at, for example, page 54 of Applicants' specification and defined in independent claims 11 and 17 (along with their respective dependent claims 12-16 and 18-23), result information for detection of a synchronization code for each frame is added to the corresponding demodulated frame data. Data reliability is predicted according to a detection result of the synchronization code at the error correcting for the read data from the recording medium. The detection result of the synchronization code for each frame is added to the corresponding demodulated frame data before the error correcting process, so as to use the detection result of the synchronization code at the error correcting process. Applicants submit that this differs from the teaching of ICHIKAWA et al.

As noted above, the object of the present invention is to use the detection result of the synchronization code at the error correcting process. On the other hand, the object of ICHIKAWA et al. is to easily detect the error position.

Secondly, the presently claimed invention teaches that result information for detection of the synchronization code for each frame is added to the corresponding demodulated frame data. On the other hand, ICHIKAWA et al. teaches that an error correcting code (ECC) is added to the sector address data. Applicants' submit that their result information differs from the ECC result in ICHIKAWA et al., because the ECC is provided at the error correcting process.

Thirdly, Applicants' invention teaches that result information for detection of the synchronization code for each frame is added before the error correcting process, whereas ICHIKAWA et al. teaches that the ECC is added simultaneously with respect to the error correcting process, or after the error correcting process.

By the current amendment, Applicants amend independent claims 11 and 17 to clarify the above-discussed feature. In view of the herein made amendments, Applicants submit that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 11 and 17 no longer exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of independent claims 11 and 17.

Further, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims, and additionally, for the combination of features recited in each dependent claim. Thus, the Examiner is also requested to confirm the allowability of the dependent claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments

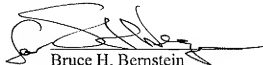
and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Toyoji GUSHIMA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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